



# Australian Bureau of Statistics

## 1307.8 - Australian Capital Territory in Focus, 2007

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### Canberrans live longer and earn more: ABS

Canberrans have fewer children, but tend to live longer and earn more compared to the rest of the country, according to a new publication about the ACT released today by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS).

The publication, *Australian Capital Territory in Focus, 2007*, also found that ACT residents were the most sporting in the nation with the highest rate of participation in sports and physical recreation (80% in 2005-06, compared with 66% nationally).

Highlights from *Australian Capital Territory in Focus* include:

- Canberra women had the lowest total fertility rate of the nation (1.65 births per woman in 2005, compared with 1.81 births per woman nationally).
- ACT residents have a higher life expectancy at birth than residents of other states and territories. A boy born in the ACT in 2005 could expect to live to 79.9 years (78.5 years nationally) and a girl born in the ACT to 84.0 years (83.3 years nationally).
- ACT residents have the second highest labour force participation rate of any state or territory (72.5% in trend terms in September 2007, compared to 65.0% nationally) just behind the Northern Territory (73.5%).
- Full-time employees in the ACT have the highest average weekly earnings nationally (\$1,288 in trend terms in May 2007, compared with \$1,088 nationally).
- Just over 88% of employing businesses in the ACT had less than 20 employees. Of the 24,000 ACT businesses at June 2005, 9,800 (41%) were employing businesses and 14,200 (59%) were non-employed businesses.
- Canberra had the highest median weekly rent for three bedroom houses of any capital city (\$330) during the December quarter 2006.
- Nine out of ten ACT residents (aged 15 years and over) attended at least one cultural venue or event in 2005-06 - the highest attendance rates of the nation (90% in the ACT compared to 85% nationally). Going to the cinema was the most favourite activity (71% attendance rate compared to 65% nationally).
- Last year was the hottest on record for the ACT. It was also sunnier than usual, with an average of 8.5 hours of sunshine per day, compared with a long-term average of 7.6 hours.

Further information on *Australian Capital Territory in Focus, 2007* (cat. no. 1307.8).

**Media note:** This publication uses 2005 fertility and life expectancy data however the recently released 2006 figures present a similar picture of the ACT.

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